

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 01487 100750Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 CPR-01 CA-01 SY-05 USSS-00

/078 W

-----044855 101024Z /20

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FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1246

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, MI

SUBJ: COMPLAINT BY MALAWI MISSION OVER TREATMENT OF MALAWI
DIPLOMAT BY US CUSTOMS OFFICERS

USUN 2818

1. WITH REGARD TO SUBJECT COMPLAINT, WE BROUGHT THE
MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MR. KACHINGWE. HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED
AS YET BY HIS UN MISSION. I POINTED OUT TO MR. KACHINGWE
THAT WE PERSONALLY REGRETTED THE SEARCHING AND HAVE NOTED
THAT THE MATTER IS BEING FURTHER INVESTIGATED, BUT THAT IT IS
DIFFICULT FOR US TO TAKE UP THE CUDGELS ON BEHALF OF THE
GOM IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT OUR OWN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
ACCREDITED TO THE GOM ARE ROUTINELY SEARCHED UPON
ARRIVAL AT THE BLANTYRE AIRPORT IN WHAT SEEMS TO US A
CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION.
I SAID WE HAVE NOT MADE A FORMAL PROTEST HERETOFORE, BUT
THAT AS MR. KACHINGWE IS AWARE, THE MATTER HAS BEEN BROUGHT
TO THE ATTENTION OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BY THE DEAN OF THE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE CORPS.

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PAGE 02 LILONG 01487 100750Z

2. MR. KACHINGWE WAS OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED AND SAID HE
RECOGNIZES THT OUR ACCREDITED PERSONNEL SHOULD NOT BE
SEARCHED BUT THAT SO FAR THE MINISTRY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE
TO PREVAIL UPON THE SECURITY FORCES TO CEASE AND DESIST.
HE SAID HE WOULD USE THE SUBJECT INCIDENT TO POINT OUT TO THEM
THAT THIS IS A TWO-WAY AFFAIR AND THAT BY THEIR ACTIONS
MALAWI SECURITY MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO TRY TO

SUPPORT A PROTEST BY THE MALAWI UN MISSION. I ASSURED KACHINGWE THAT THE NEW YORK INCIDENT WAS NOT A RETALIATORY ACTION AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN IN NEW YORK AND THAT THE SITUATION IN MALAWI MIGHT SOON BE RECTIFIED. MR. KACHINGWE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT IS DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THAT THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO CORRECT THE SITUATION AT THE BLANTYRE AIRPORT (SINCE THE MINISTER F EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IS NONE OTHER THAN H.E. THE LIFE PRESIDENT BANDA), I STONRGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE IN THIS CASE. I THINK A REPORT OF CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN IN NEW YORK, PERHAPS ACCOMPANIED BY A MILD APOLOGY, WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US AND TO KACHINGWE IN OUR EFFORTS TO CORRECT THE SITUATION HERE. STEVENSON

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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